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# Virginia Aviation

Published by the Virginia Department of Aviation



## Virginia Department of Aviation recently hosted annual Virginia Aviation Conference in Roanoke

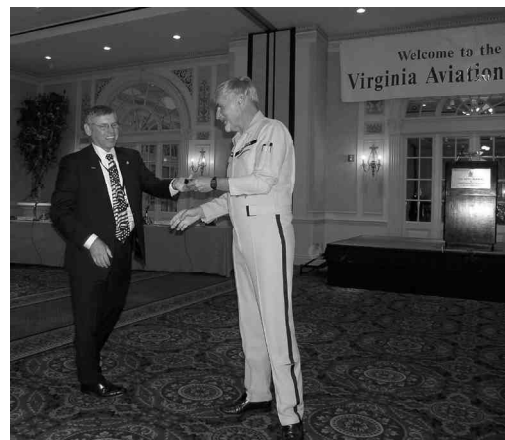
*Virginia Aviation Awards banquet also held during 31<sup>st</sup> annual conference*

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Virginia Aviation Conference was recently held August 25-27, 2004 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, in Roanoke, Virginia. The theme for this year's conference was "Navigating New Skies."

Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Aviation, Virginia Aviation Board, the Virginia Airport Operators Council and Virginia Aviation Business Association, the conference allows the aviation community to come together for informative discussions and meetings.

This meeting of airport managers, sponsors, consultants, government officials and others with an interest in aviation in Virginia offered breakout sessions on a number of timely topics and ran concurrently with the Virginia Aviation Board meeting. Some of the topics included Land Use, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Aviation Applications, Potomac Tracon, and Controlling Airport Wildlife. An exhibit hall featured a wide range of airport-related products and aviation companies promoting and displaying.

The opening session featured famed pilot Dick Rutan. Rutan spoke on the many significant experiences he has had during his piloting days and specifically on piloting the Voyager. On one tank of gas and without refueling, the carbon composite honeycomb sandwich airplane, designed by Burt Rutan, would fly around the globe. Taking off from Edwards Air Force Base in California on December 14, 1986 and landing 9 (Conference cont. on pg. 3)



**Dick Rutan is presented a small gift by DOAV Director Randy Burdette.**

## FAA Dedicates New Airport Traffic Control Tower at Richmond International

Federal Aviation Administration officials, joined by the Honorable John Warner, United States Senator of the Commonwealth of Virginia, other elected officials and members of the Capital Region Airport Commission recently dedicated a new airport traffic control tower and administration base building at Richmond International Airport. Arlene Feldman, FAA Eastern Region Administrator, served as the emcee, and introduced keynote speaker Senator Warner, who was instrumental in obtaining federal funding for the new tower.

Representative Robert Scott and Representative Randy Forbes also made brief comments. Deputy Secretary of Transportation Ralph



(Tower cont. on pg. 7)

# New airport manager named at Louisa County Airport/LKU will sponsor Marines Toys for Tot's

## 13th Annual Airshow held

Dawn Pickardt was recently named new airport manager for the Louisa County Airport. Pickardt has been employed with the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) since April of 1990, beginning her service as the IDA Secretary. Endorsed by Admiral Freeman to be promoted to Airport Manager the endorsement was approved by the IDA Board on July 15, 2004. She has coordinated and planned 13 Annual Airshows, with plans underway for 14th Annual Airshow, which is scheduled for Saturday, Sept, 3, 2005.

"Dawn has been a huge asset to the development of the Louisa County Airport for the past 13-years," said Admiral Freeman. "She is a self starter with enormous motivation in wanting to direct the airport and continue the advancement and development of LKU."

In the 22-year history of the airport, Pickardt is the first person to be named as Airport Manager. "I feel that it is very important to promote aviation among our youth," said Pickardt. "One of my passions while working for LKU has been working with the local school systems and daycare facilities to arrange tours of the airport and also make classroom

appearances." She also initiated a Marines Toys for Tots Program in 2003 and will again spearhead the program in 2004.

## LKU Sponsors 2004 Toy Drive

Louisa County Airport/Freeman Field will proudly serve as a sponsor of the Marines Toys For Tot's Program. The toy drive was a tremendous success last year and over 500 toys were collected. Last year over 63,000 toys were collected statewide which was triple the amount donated in 2002. The toys will be distributed by the Salvation Army to needy families.

LKU Manager Dawn Pickardt has sent a press release to all Airport Managers throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia alerting the Aviation community of the toy drive again this year. For more information please contact her at (540) 967-0050 or by e-mail at [dawnp@firstva.com](mailto:dawnp@firstva.com).

## 13th Annual Air Show Held

Louisa County Airport recently held the 13th Annual Louisa County Air Show. The show opened with a "starburst" formation parachute jump, followed by a Pitts aerobatic performance by Charles Schwenker and an amazing YAK 55 Aerobatic show by Roger Marshall. The legendary

## Virginia Aviation Events

**October 23-24, 2004 Chesterfield County Airport Days** will take place at the airport. A celebration including antique planes, vehicles, World War I and II re-enactors, crafts, displays, plane rides, etc. For more information contact Charles Dane at (804) 743-0771.

**December 14, 2004 Virginia Aviation Board Workshop** will be held beginning at 3:00 p.m., location TBA. No formal actions by the Board will be taken at the workshop. All formal actions will take place during Virginia Aviation Board meetings. Schedule and meeting place subject to change - for additional information contact Carolyn Toth, Administrative Assistant, at 804-236-3637.

**December 15, 2004 Virginia Aviation Board Meeting** will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m., location TBA. For additional information contact Carolyn Toth, Administrative Assistant, at 804-236-3637.

*Submit upcoming event information to:*  
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Flying Farmer dazzled the audience with his unforgettable appearance.

Airport Manager Dawn Pickardt made the event a huge success. Admiral Freeman, Airport Committee Chairman, organized the first airshow and continues to help spearhead the annual event.

The Hardee's Air Show Team performed throughout the day. The all new Science Museum of Virginia Space Traveler was on display making one of its first appearances. The trailer has 20 hands-on exhibits including "Traveling in Space," "Living in Space," and "Space Exploration" exhibits.

Attendance at the annual airshow continues to grow each year and estimated crowds of 5,000-6,000 have enjoyed the festivities in the past.



**Pictured left to right: DOAV Director Randy Burdette, Louisa Co. Airport Manager Dawn Pickardt, and DOAV Engineer Jerry Jackson at the airshow.**



(**Conference** cont. from pg. 1)

days, 3 minutes and 44 seconds later on December 23, 1986, the Voyager set absolute distance records and many other world records that remain unchallenged today.

On Wednesday evening, August 26<sup>th</sup>, there was a reception provided by host airport Roanoke Regional.

The annual Virginia Aviation Awards Banquet, which was held on Thursday night August 27<sup>th</sup>, honored those who have made significant contributions to Virginia Aviation over the past year.

The 2004 Award for the Virginia Airport Manager of the Year was presented to Mark F. Courtney.

This award is given in recognition of his outstanding performance as Airport

Manager of Lynchburg Regional Airport exemplified by his successful efforts to increase airline service to the citizens of the Lynchburg region.

Curtis J. Grant has been selected as the 2004 Virginia Aviation Person of the Year. This award has been given to him in recognition of his vision and leadership as founder and director of the Aviation Academy, a high school magnet program of Newport News Public Schools, in existence since 1994. Highly skilled and motivated students graduating from the academy will contribute to future aviation in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In recognition of his lifetime contributions to aviation in Virginia, Ken Scott, has, for over 30 years, provided the leadership that has led to continued growth at Norfolk Interna-

tional Airport. With a background of meritorious military service and civil engineering experience, he serves as Executive Director of the Norfolk Airport Authority with overall responsibility for the management, operation, maintenance, and development of the airport. In this capacity, he has guided the airport through numerous improvements and expansions, and prepared it for changes as the industry has matured and rebounded from recent challenges. His knowledge and dedication to the aviation industry and Norfolk International Airport, his drive to continue to improve and innovate, and his strong commitment to his community make Kenneth R. Scott an extraordinary asset to Virginia aviation.

The Virginia Finest Pilot Award has been awarded to Ralph Burr. This award is presented by Angel Flight of Virginia and the Virginia Department of Aviation to a Virginia pilot who has made an outstanding contribution to the health and welfare of Virginia citizens through his provision of no-cost, long-distance medical air transportation through the Angel Flight of Virginia program. Burr who is 68, retired from the General Electric plant in Salem, Virginia. He bought his plane in 1991 after his son urged him to take flying lessons at



Ralph Burr (m) is presented the Virginia finest pilot award.

Virginia Western Community College. He learned about Angel Flight in 1997 when he saw a poster on a bulletin board at the Roanoke airport. Before signing up for Angel Flight, he had flown between 500 and 600 hours. Now, Angel Flight missions make up about 75 percent of his plane use. He is married and his wife is also a pilot, along with two of their three sons. Burr, who has flown over 130 Angel Flight missions since 1997, owns a Cessna 172 four-seater.

Three Virginia pilots who, this past year, have introduced the most young people to the joy of flight as a part of the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles Program are awarded the 2004 Virginia Top Eagle Awards. This year's "Top Eagle #1" is Raymond Judd of Huddleston, Virginia, who flew 135 Young Eagles. "Top Eagle #2" is George Smith of Ashburn, Virginia, who flew 86 Young Eagles, and "Top Eagle #3" is Williams Mackey from Moneta, Virginia, who flew 64 Young Eagles.

The Virginia Department of Aviation is pleased to congratulate all of the 2004 Virginia Aviation Awards winners and thank them for their outstanding contributions to Virginia Aviation.

## Liberty University and Lynchburg Regional Airport to host SAFECON

Liberty University will be hosting the National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) Region X air meet called SAFECON, on October 20-23 at Lynchburg Regional Airport.

All flying events will be hosted by Lynchburg Regional Airport and resident FBO Virginia Aviation, while ground events will take place on the campus of Liberty University.

For more information please contact the Liberty University Aviation Department at 434-582-2183.

# Aviation Institute of Maintenance: the right fix for an education

*Maintenance school has two locations in the Commonwealth*

Did you know that Virginia is the home of two Aviation Maintenance schools? The Aviation Institute of Maintenance (AIM) schools in Norfolk, established in 1994, and Manassas, established in 2001, train some of the finest aviation mechanics in the industry.

Actual aircraft and components are used to train students who attend the schools. The majority of the training aids and equipment utilized at the Manassas campus originated from an aviation school in Illinois owned

AIM's program objectives include:

- Study in all aspects of aircraft, powerplants, hydraulics & auxiliary systems
- Develop critical thinking skills
- Develop a knowledge of FAA regulations & procedures
- Develop safe work habits & skills
- And, preparation for a successful career in aviation

AIM's purpose is to train students to become the best possible in aircraft mechanics. In that effort, the instructors have an *average* 22 years experience in aviation maintenance - including a vast array of experience on all types of aircraft - heavy jets, single engine prop planes, helicopters - everything. The depth and breadth of the present faculty is very impressive!

Rob Rickenbach, Director of AIM-Manassas, is excited about the growth of aviation maintenance schools... "having

just earned our accreditation, we anticipate that our school will more than double in enrollment in the next two years. That, combined with the growth of aviation in the greater DC area, will result in a myriad of oppor-

by American Airlines and consists largely of components from a 707 aircraft, a Cessna 150 and a Queen Air. The Norfolk facility currently has airframe training on a Piper PA-38, Cessna 337 and Tomahawk - to name just a few.

Every AIM school incorporates all aspects of training required by the FAA as a "Part 147 School". Students learn everything they need to know to take the FAA exams and receive their Airframe & Powerplant license. The typical aviation maintenance program takes about 18 months to complete, with both day and evening classes.



tunities for anyone wishing to improve their employment outlook by way of becoming an aircraft mechanic."

AIM currently has four other aviation maintenance schools located in Atlanta, Kansas City, Philadelphia, and the newest facility in Indianapolis. The Aviation Institute of Maintenance is a division of Tidewater Tech and their associated career schools with headquarters in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

After attaining their A&P License, our technicians are very employable and we combine their efforts with our job placement assistance program.

If you, or anyone else you know have a need for one of the trained aviation techs, please feel free to contact the AIM Corporate office at 888-349-5387.

Or, for more information about the many other programs offered by Tidewater Tech, please contact AIM's headquarters at 877-604-2121.



# Virginia Aviation Board allocates funds to Commonwealth's airports



At the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Virginia Aviation Conference held in Roanoke recently, the Virginia Aviation Board (VAB) approved tentative allocations for 37 of the Commonwealth's airports from the Commonwealth Airport Fund, totaling \$8,703,319 in discretionary funds and \$2,855,062 in entitlement funds. Receiving one of the largest discretionary allocations was **Richmond International Airport**, in the amount of \$2,703,439 for Air Traffic Control Tower (Multi-Year), Concourse "B" (formally "C") Expansion (Multi-Year), Terminal Building Furnishings (Multi-Year) and Terminal Building Expansion. Richmond also received \$1,999,999 in entitlement funds for Taxiway "U" Extension (Multi-Year), Terminal Building Expansion (Multi-Year), Terminal Platform & Elevated Roadway (Multi-Year) and Loop Roadways (Multi-Year). Other airports receiving allocations from the VAB were:

## Region 1:

- **Mountain Empire Airport** in the amount of \$7,792 for East Side Apron (Construction);
- **New River Valley Airport** was awarded \$2,862 for Airport Layout Plan (ALP) Update;
- **Tazewell County Airport** was awarded \$41,160 for Runway, Taxiway & Apron Rehab. (Construction) – Increased (Non-AIP) and Maintenance Equipment Storage Building (Construction);
- **Twin County Airport** was allocated \$30,000 for Runway 18/36 Rehabilitation/Widening (Construction);
- **Virginia Highlands Airport** in the amount of \$69,390 for Environmental Assessment – Runway 6 Extension (Construction), Obstruction Removal – Phase 5 (Construction)

and West Side Development – Phase 3 (Construction);

- **Virginia Tech-Montgomery Executive Airport** was awarded \$129,888 for Land Acquisition Services – RPZ, Apron Expansion – Phase 2 (Design/Construction), Airport Master Plan (ALP) Update, Apron Rehabilitation – Phase 2 (Construction) Increase;

## Region 2:

- **Blue Ridge Airport** was allocated \$554,390 for Clear Span Hangar Site Preparations (Construction), Environmental Assessment – Future Development, West Side Apron – Phase 2;
- **Ingalls Field** in the amount of \$95,982 for Apron Rehabilitation – (Design/Construction) – Increase;
- **Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport (SHD)** was awarded \$531,348 in discretionary funds for Auto Parking Lot & T-Hangar Taxiway Rehab. (Construction), Parallel Taxiway Rehab. (Construction), General Aviation (G.A.) Terminal Building Renovation (Design), G.A. Terminal Building Public-Use Furniture Replacement \$41,030 and G.A. Terminal Building Renovation (Construction). SHD was also awarded \$50,000 in entitlement funds for Parallel Taxiway Rehab. (Construction) and Runway 5/23 Rehab. (Construction) – Increase;

## Region 3:

- **Culpeper Regional Airport** was allocated \$7,290 for Mid field Apron Connector (Construction) – Increase;
- **Front Royal-Warren County Airport** in the amount of \$1,736 for Land Acquisition – Part 77/Runway Object Free Area;
- **Leesburg Executive Airport** was awarded \$64,616 for South Apron Expansion – Phase 1 (Design),

Runway 17/35 & Taxiway Rehab. (Construction) – Increase;

- **Luray Caverns Airport** was awarded \$2,400 for Land Acquisition – Runway 22 RPZ;
- **Manassas Regional Airport** was allocated \$60,000 for East Apron Rehab. & Expansion (Construction);
- **New Market Airport** in the amount of \$212,000 for Apron/Taxiway Rehab. (Construction);
- **Stafford Regional Airport** was awarded \$137,300 for T-Hangar #3 Site Preparation (Design), Terminal Loop Road (Design/Construction), Terminal Building (Design) (61% Public Use);
- **Warrenton-Fauquier Airport** was awarded \$78,785 for Clear Span Hangar Site Preparation (Design), Land Acquisition – Approaches Rehabilitation/Expansion (Design/Construction), Airport Layout Plan (ALP) Update, Fueling System Expansion – Jet A (Design/Construction), Airport Rehabilitation/Expansion – Phase 3 (Design/Construction) – Increase and Terminal Building Study;
- **Winchester Regional Airport** in the amount \$65,950 Land Acquisition – RPZ – Phase 3 (Parcels 31, 46 & 53) and G.A. Terminal Building Renovation Study \$40,000;

## Region 4:

- **Louisa County Airport** was allocated \$14,250 for Apron & Taxiway Rehab. (Construction);
- **Middle Peninsula Airport** was awarded \$925,623 for Fueling System (Construction), Terminal Building (Construction) (73% Public-Use), Terminal Building Site Preparation/Auto Parking (Construction)
- **New Kent County Airport** in the amount of \$8,160 for Runway 10-35 Rehab. (Construction) – Increase;

(VAB cont. on pg. 6)



(VAB cont from pg. 5)

#### Region 5:

- **Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport (CHO)** received \$1,118,803 in discretionary funds for Air Carrier Terminal Building Rehab. (Design/Construction) – Non-AIP, CHO also received \$805,061 in entitlement funds for Air Carrier Access Road, Air Carrier Apron Rehab., G.A. Apron Rehab./Expansion (Design/Construction) – Non-AIP – Increase, Air Carrier Terminal Building Rehab. (Design/Construction) – Non-AIP, Backup Generator (Design/Construction), Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF)/LEO Equipment, ARFF Training Network, 800MHz Radio System Debt Service and Air Carrier Terminal Building Rehab. (Design/Construction) – AIP;
- **Danville Regional Airport** was allocated \$321,877 for Land Acquisition – Runway 2/20 RPZ, Taxiway “E” Rehab. (Construction) – Increase, Terminal Building Rehab. (Construction);
- **William M. Tuck** was awarded Taxiway Rehabilitation and Medium Intensity Runway Light (MITL’s) (Construction) – Increase;

#### Region 6:

- **Chesterfield County Airport** received \$55,500 for North Terminal Apron (Construction);
- **Dinwiddie County Airport** in the amount of \$30,750 for Obstruction Removal Runway 5 & 23 Approaches (Design/Construction);
- **Emporia-Greenville Regional Airport** received \$1,440 for Partial Parallel Taxiway – Phase 2 (Design);
- **Mecklenburg-Brunswick Airport** was awarded \$1,500 for Partial Parallel Taxiway – Phase 2 (Design);
- **Wakefield Municipal Airport** was allocated \$6,000 for Airport Layout Plan (ALP) Update;

#### Region 7:

- **Accomack County Airport** received \$10,273 for Helicopter

Parking Apron (Design) and Partial Parallel Taxiway – North (Design);

- **Chesapeake Regional Airport** received \$245,700 for Master Plan Update and T-Hangar #23 & #25 Site Preparation (Construction);
- **Franklin Municipal** was awarded \$13,500 for Taxiway Rehabilitation & Runway 9 Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) (Construction);
- **Hampton Roads Executive Airport** received \$120,000 for T-Hangar Taxiways & Access Road Rehab. (Construction);
- **Suffolk Executive Airport** was allocated \$323,369 for Extended Runway Safety Read (ERSA) Extension (Design), Clear Span Hangar Site Preparation – Phase 2 (Design/Construction) and Wetlands Mitigation – Runway Extension – Phase 2;
- **Tangier Airport** was awarded \$4,500 for Runway 2/20, Taxiway & Apron Rehab. (Design);
- **Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport** received \$16,000 Airport Layout Plan (ALP) Update.

In other significant action, the VAB also allocated \$398,567 from the Aviation Promotion/Air Service Development and Enhancement Grant-in-Aid Program to 18 of the Commonwealth’s airports.

#### Region 1:

- **Tazewell County Airport** was awarded \$7,500 for Aviation Promotion;
- **Twin County Airport** received \$667.00 for Aviation Promotion;
- **Virginia Tech/Montgomery Executive Airport** received \$7,500 for Aviation Promotion;

#### Region 2:

- **Roanoke Regional Airport** was awarded \$45,000 for Aviation Promotion and Air Service Development;
- **Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport** received \$45,000 for Aviation Promotion and Air Service Development;

#### Region 3:

- **Leesburg Executive Airport** in the amount \$7,500 for Aviation Promotion;
- **Winchester Regional Airport** was allocated \$7,500 for Aviation Promotion;

#### Region 4:

- **Hummel Field** received \$2,100 for Aviation Promotion;
- **New Kent County Airport** was awarded \$3,300 for Aviation Promotion;
- **Richmond International Airport** in the amount of \$45,000 for Aviation Promotion and Air Service Development;

#### Region 5:

- **Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Airport** received \$45,000 for Aviation Promotion and Air Service Development;
- **Lynchburg Regional Airport** in the amount of \$45,000 for Aviation Promotion and Air Service Development;

#### Region 6:

- **Chesterfield County Airport** was awarded \$7,500 for Aviation Promotion;
- **Emporia-Greenville Regional Airport** was allocated \$7,500 for Aviation Promotion;

#### Region 7:

- **Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport** received \$45,000 for Aviation Promotion and Air Service Development;
- **Newport News/Task Force** received \$45,000 for Aviation Promotion and Air Service Development;
- **Norfolk International Airport** was allocated \$25,000 for Aviation Promotion;
- **Suffolk Municipal Airport** received \$7,500 for Aviation Promotion.

The Virginia Aviation Board has eight members representing seven regions. The Board approves funding

(VAB cont from pg. 6)

requests brought to it by the Virginia Department of Aviation, a state agency working to support and promote commercial and private aviation interests for the Commonwealth's 67 public-use airports.



Davis represented the Commonwealth, and noted that the state had invested more than \$2 million toward the \$11.2 million project.

The construction of the new tower is part of the FAA's continuing modernization of the National Airspace System. Ground was broken for the facility on May 20, 2002. It was commissioned on June 13, 2004. The cost of construction and installation of equipment was over \$12 million. The new structure replaces the original tower, which was built in 1943. Last year the airport traffic

control tower handled 127,560 takeoffs and landings at Richmond International Airport.

"The construction and commissioning of a new airport traffic tower is vitally important," said Arlene B. Feldman, Regional Administrator, Eastern Region, FAA. "The new tower not only provides improved visibility of the field's taxiways, runways and approaches, but also serves as a reminder of FAA's strong commitment to provide the safest aviation system in the world to aviation users and to the traveling public."

"Richmond International Airport is thankful for the effort and support of the Federal Aviation Administration,

Virginia's Congressional delegation, and the Commonwealth of Virginia in the funding and construction of the new Air Traffic Control Tower at RIC," said James B. Donati, Chairman, Capital Region Airport Commission. "The new tower represents an ongoing safety enhancement and serves as a keystone element in the modernization of the gateway to the Greater Richmond Region."

The ceremony also included a presentation of a plaque dedicated to the late John Lillard of the Capital Region Airport Commission. It will be affixed to the exterior of the new structure. Mr. Lillard was key in the planning and design of the tower.

The new tower is 150 feet high from the ground to the floor of the tower cab. The cab is the area at the top of the airport traffic control tower from which controllers handle landings and takeoffs at Richmond International Airport. The facility also includes a 10,000-square-foot, steel and pre-cast concrete administration base building, which will provide office space for FAA Air Traffic and

Airway Facility personnel and to house electronic equipment.

Federal Aviation Administration's Eastern Region includes Delaware, Maryland New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Serving Central Virginia since 1927, Richmond International Airport offers service to 20 nonstop destinations via the networks of six major airlines and their regional affiliates.

The Department of Aviation played a role in assisting the FAA with this ribbon-cutting event, which was held in the parking lot directly in front of the tower.

## Roanoke Regional Airport Commission elects new Chairman and Vice Chairman

The Roanoke Regional Airport Commission elected James M. Turner, Jr. as Chair, and Jane Milliron as Vice Chair of the Commission. Both will serve one-year terms in their respective offices for the five-member board which oversees the operation of the Roanoke Regional Airport. Turner replaces Arthur M. Whittaker, Sr., who has served as Chair to the Commission since 1997.

Turner, who is CEO and Board Chairman of J.M. Turner & Company, a Roanoke-based general contracting firm, has been a member of the Commission since 1995 and Vice Chair since 1998.

Milliron is co-owner and operator of Warren Gilbert Photography, located in Roanoke and has been serving on the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission since 1998.



Sen. Warner was the keynote speaker.



# Day of Soaring: Blue Ridge Soaring Society hosts Virginia Aviation Conference attendees

During the recent Virginia Aviation conference in Roanoke, The Blue Ridge Soaring Society (BRSS) (along with pilots from the Springwood Soaring Association) were gracious enough to offer free glider flights to conference attendees. Over 35 people took the chance at the free flights.



**Virginia Aviation Board member Emmitt Yeary gets some reassurance from VAB member Alan Wagner.**

The BRSS is a club operation located near New Castle, Virginia, in scenic Craig County. This area is surrounded by the Jefferson National Forest, where the Appalachian Trail stretches through the wilderness of Virginia.

The mountain ridges running through the area provide great ridge flights for long cross country flights. When weather conditions permit, wave flights are also possible. The BRSS has a high altitude waiver window, allowing for flights up to 23,000 feet.

Every September, The BRSS hosts the Region 4 South contest. One of the most notable contests was in 1990, when 17 of the 25 pilots completed a 1000 km task, covering ridges in 4 states.

Ground facilities include a club



house with full kitchen, great room, and dining room. There is a large campground with utility hookups and a shower house. Most social activities are centered around a large, covered picnic pavilion and bon fire ring.

The club fleet includes two L-23 Super Blaniks, two L-33 Blanik Solos, one Twin Astir and a 235hp Pawnee towplane. In addition, about 20 privately owned gliders are based out of New Castle International Gliderport.

Many thanks to the BRSS for their gracious hospitality during the Virginia Aviation conference. For more information on the BRSS please visit their website [www.brss.net](http://www.brss.net) or by phone at (540) 864-5800 on weekends.



If you are interested in learning more about what is going on in the Department of Aviation, please call our office at (804) 236-3624 or our Sponsor Hotline at (800) 292-1034. Visit our website for updates on future events at: [www.doav.virginia.gov](http://www.doav.virginia.gov).



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